



### LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9: (canceled).

10 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster, the ceramic plate material consisting of, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 5% to not more than 20%, AlN of more than 15% to not more than 40% and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  of not less than 40% to not more than 80%,

Al of 9 mass% or more in terms of Al equivalent, and

having the properties of: bending strength at room temperature of not less than 120 MPa, bending strength at 1,000°C of not less than 65 MPa, hardness (Hv) of 50 to 350, fracture toughness  $K_{Ic}$  at 1,000°C of not less than 1  $\text{MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$ , thermal conductivity at a temperature from room temperature to 1,000°C of not more than 8 W/(m·K), thermal shock resistance index  $R'$  of not less than 800 W/m, and wettability with molten steel (contact angle  $\theta$ ) of not less than 120°.

11 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster, the ceramic plate material consisting of, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 5% to not more than 20%, AlN of more than 15% to not more than 40% and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  of not less than 40% to not more than 80%,

Al of 9 mass% or more in terms of Al equivalent,

one or more of:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%,  $\text{MgO}$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  of not less than 1% to not more than 30% and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, and

having the properties of: bending strength at room temperature of not less than 120 MPa, bending strength at  $1,000^\circ\text{C}$  of not less than 65 MPa, hardness (Hv) of 50 to 350, fracture toughness  $K_{\text{Ic}}$  at  $1,000^\circ\text{C}$  of not less than  $1 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$ , thermal conductivity at a temperature from room temperature to  $1,000^\circ\text{C}$  of not more than  $8 \text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{K})$ , thermal shock resistance index  $R'$  of not less than  $800 \text{ W}/\text{m}$ , and wettability with molten steel (contact angle  $\theta$ ) of not less than  $120^\circ$ .

12 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 10 characterized by containing, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 10% to less than 20%.

13 (new): A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 11 characterized by containing, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 10% to less than 20%.